A DECADE OF INQUIRY
FOUNDATIONS LAID, HORIZONS AHEAD



Our Alumni's Journey

Ashank Desai
Centre *for* Policy Studies
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Insight ♦ Dialogue ♦ Impact

About the Centre

The Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies (ADCPS), formerly the Centre for Policy Studies, at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay was established in 2016 to advance interdisciplinary teaching, rigorous research, and public engagement in the field of public policy.



The Centre began its academic journey with the launch of its PhD in Public Policy programme in 2017, followed by the Master of Public Policy (MPP) programme in 2019. In 2021, it was renamed in honour of Mr Ashank Desai, an IIT Bombay alumnus and philanthropist whose generous support has helped strengthen the Centre's vision and capacity. As the Centre celebrates its 10th Foundation Day, it continues to grow as a platform where academic rigour meets public relevance, nurturing scholars grounded in democratic values and attentive to structural realities and global transformations.

The Centre engages with complex policy challenges through integrated perspectives from the social sciences, science and technology, law, and medicine. Its research is organised around six core thematic areas, namely Digital Society and Governance, Industrial and Economic Policy, Social Policy (Education, Ageing, Identity), Technology and Policy, Urban Policy, and Water, Sanitation, Energy and Climate Change.

This booklet brings together profiles of the Centre's research alumni, including 22 PhD graduates and six MS by Research graduates.

From the Head's Desk

It is a pleasure to reflect on the academic legacy and the vibrant intellectual community that the centre has established over the past ten years. Our PhD alumni, whose dedication and accomplishments we deeply value, are a vital part of this community. The commitment, perseverance, and critical engagement necessary on the PhD journey continue to influence conversations both within and beyond the respective fields. Our PhD alumni have been similarly influential in making meaningful contributions to society, both by addressing complex questions in their research and by now pursuing varied career paths.

A PhD is a long but transformative journey that extends beyond completing a thesis and receiving the degree. Sustained engagement with critical ideas requires not only the patience of the individual scholar but also the support of family and friends. In many respects, the experience is a shared realisation of the hopes and aspirations of our close ones. Our alumni—both PhD and MS by Research—are ambassadors for the center, sharing the knowledge and skills they acquired during their time at the centre and the institution in their respective professional careers. We intend to strengthen enduring relationships and promote continuous collaboration among our alums, students, and faculty to carry on this legacy.



Prof. Vinish Kathuria
Head, ADCPS

From the PhD FacAd's Desk

The Doctoral Faculty Advisor's role is to largely support and facilitate doctoral candidates through every stage of their doctoral journey, from coursework, to fieldwork, from thesis writing to final submission.

Over the roughly five years journey, candidates are deeply concerned about the various intricacies of their intellectual journey: narrowing down to crisp research question(s), fieldwork that needs to go to plan, long stretches of editing one's work in isolation, the rejections from journals, and non-trivial concerns about one's future.

It is not un-natural to feel that one's progress is too glacial at times. Research rarely moves in a straight line, and setbacks, one slowly realizes, are often when real learning takes place. Cultivating a sense of real patience while simultaneously dealing with intellectual ferment is never an easy task. These experiences are not all uncommon, though the difficulty is that one often faces them alone.

The gift of keeping one's eyes on the prize, of defending one's doctoral thesis, is however deeply gratifying. I wish the ADCPS doctoral alumni, the very unrivalled best for their future endeavours.



Prof. Shishir K. Jha
Faculty Advisor, PhD, ADCPS

Alumni
PhD



Khushboo Balani

PhD Awarded in 2023

Essays on Healthcare Financing in India

PROJECT SCIENTIST III

NATIONAL DISEASE MODELLING CONSORTIUM

Adequate government healthcare financing is vital for developing nations, where out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) pushes millions into poverty. Khushboo's thesis examines India's challenges in achieving financial protection, comparing Empowered Action Group (EAG) and non-EAG states. The first essay finds a non-linear, bi-directional relationship between public health spending and GDP over four decades, while showing that weak administrative capacity contributes to fund underutilisation in EAG states. The second shows how OOPE increases inequality and impoverishment, even where insurance coverage is high. The final essay examines India's generic drug scheme, PMBJP, and finds procurement delays and low awareness that limit access to affordable medicines and reduce its impact.

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Manav Khaire

PhD Awarded in 2023

Examining 'Affordability' as an Intent within the Indian Urban Housing Policy

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PALAKKAD

Manav's thesis examines housing affordability in India and the gap between housing policies and their outcomes. It explores how affordability is understood and addressed at three levels, from the historical development of housing policy to how stakeholders define affordability and how low-income households cope with rising costs. The thesis finds that ambiguity in the meaning of affordability leads to exclusionary policies. It argues that using economic measures to design welfare-focused housing programmes favours middle- and higher-income groups, undermining the goal of ensuring affordable housing for those who need it most.

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Pramath Kant

PhD Awarded in 2023

Use of MOOCs in Higher Education in India: Evidence Based Policy Assessment

CONSULTANT (R & A)
INFOSYS KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTE

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are playing an increasingly important role in India's higher education landscape. Pramath's research examines their use among science and engineering students, exploring why students choose these courses, the benefits they receive, and how online learning can complement traditional classroom teaching. Drawing on NPTEL course data and surveys of students and faculty across India, the study evaluates how MOOCs are used and perceived, alongside government initiatives such as SWAYAM that promote online learning and academic credit. The findings highlight the strengths and limitations of MOOCs and suggest ways to make online learning more accessible and effective.

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Sachin Tiwale

PhD Awarded in 2023

Policy Instrumentation: Decoding per capita Standard of Water Supply and Associated Technopolitics in Mumbai

FELLOW
ASHOKA TRUST FOR RESEARCH IN ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (ATREE)

Mumbai's water supply has expanded over more than 150 years, even as significant sections of the city's population continue to lack adequate access to water. Sachin's research examines how water resources were developed and secured for the city, drawing on the concepts of technopolitics and policy instrumentation. The thesis shows how practices such as overstating water demand, using higher per capita supply standards to project shortages, selectively presenting supply data, and diverting water reserved for irrigation helped secure water for Mumbai. These practices framed political decisions about water allocation as neutral technical necessities, obscuring the choices and priorities underlying the city's water supply system.

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Uttara Purandare

PhD Awarded in 2023

Whose Smart Cities? Management Consultants, Governance, and Inclusion in India's Smart Cities Mission

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE & ERASMUS UNIVERSITY ROTTERDAM

Uttara's PhD thesis, titled *Whose Smart Cities? Management Consultants, Governance, and Inclusion in India's Smart Cities Mission*, examines India's smart city policy and the growing role of private sector consultants in urban governance. Her research explores how consultants shape policy and development at national and city levels, alongside the institutions and policy frameworks created by the Smart Cities Mission. The thesis finds that India's governance structures are becoming increasingly privatised, with technology driving this transition. It also highlights growing concerns around safety, surveillance, privacy, and limited oversight of consulting firms and their expanding influence on India's policy and governance landscape.

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Aparna Raj C.

PhD Awarded in 2024

Implementing Mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility in India: Moving Beyond Voluntarism

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AHMEDABAD

India's introduction of mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) transformed a traditionally voluntary corporate practice into a regulatory obligation. Aparna's research traces the evolution and implementation of CSR legislation over its first decade, examining how regulation has shaped corporate social responsibility in practice. It explores the roles and interactions of corporations, government, and civil society, highlighting how their responses have influenced CSR governance and outcomes. The study also identifies tensions and distortions within the CSR ecosystem, showing how regulatory intervention has shaped the way CSR is practised and governed in India.

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Vartika Arora

PhD Awarded in 2024

Navigating India's Anti-Dumping Complexities: A Solution or A Problem?

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, IIT BOMBAY

Vartika's thesis examines India's use of anti-dumping (AD) measures between 1995 and 2022, tracing the evolution of the country's legislative and administrative framework following its entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO). Using qualitative analysis of WTO trade policy reviews and econometric methods, the research explores India's policy approach and the factors influencing firms to initiate anti-dumping petitions. The findings show that large domestic firms in highly concentrated markets, particularly those with prior experience, are more likely to file petitions. The study highlights the need to balance domestic industry protection with transparency and international trade obligations.

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Kanthi Swaroop

PhD Awarded in 2025

Restructuring Urban Sewage Work: A Study of Policy Change and Caste in Hyderabad

Efforts to eliminate manual scavenging in Indian cities have faced persistent challenges despite legislative reforms and social movement mobilisation. Kanthi's research examines these efforts in Hyderabad, focusing on a newer approach that works through caste-based Dalit networks. The dissertation critically analyses how this approach shapes efforts to address the practice and its wider implications for urban governance. The findings show that social movements and transformative politics have led to policy changes that paradoxically reinforce caste-based modes of governance, shifting the role of regulation from the state towards market-based solutions to urban sanitation. The research highlights how policy can reshape power and governance.

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Neha Durga

PhD Awarded in 2025

Political Economy of Energy Transition in Irrigation in India

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
BITS PILANI, DUBAI

India's transition towards solar-powered irrigation involves economic, political, and equity challenges beyond the adoption of new technologies. Neha's thesis examines the policy and stakeholder dynamics shaping decentralized solar irrigation pumps in Bihar. Drawing on surveys, policy documents, stakeholder interviews, and financial analysis, the research explores the evolution of irrigation energy policy, the interests of farmers and other stakeholders, and the implications for irrigation service markets. The findings show that despite their economic potential, solar pumps have limited electoral salience and remain difficult for many farmers to access due to high upfront costs. Conventional grid electricity also raises equity concerns, as larger farmers benefit disproportionately from state subsidies.

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Yashas P. R.

PhD Awarded in 2025

Curbing Fake News: Understanding Limitations to Media Literacy, Gatekeeping, and Regulation as Mitigators

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
CHRIST UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU

Efforts to curb fake news face challenges across media literacy, journalism, and state regulation. Yashas' thesis examines the limitations of these three approaches through four studies situated within hybrid media systems. The research explores how fragmented messaging and weak audience engagement constrain media literacy, while actual and perceived media bias undermine trust in news. A comparative analysis of regulations in India, Singapore, and Turkey further shows how state-led fact-checking can inadvertently amplify misinformation while serving broader political objectives. The thesis introduces the concept of Gambit Policy Designs to explain these regulatory dynamics and highlights the need for more context-sensitive responses to misinformation.

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Brishti Banerjee

PhD Awarded in 2026

Politics and Lived Implications of Policy Categories: Informal Settlements in Guwahati

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

JusTIS PROJECT

Housing informality in Guwahati reveals a gap between formal policy and the realities of urban governance. Brishti's research examines how informal housing is governed and how planning frameworks interact with regional land laws and state practices. The thesis finds that policy categories for informal settlements have limited influence on governance outcomes, while land laws shaped by ethnonationalist agendas and ad hoc state practices play a greater role. As a result, residents face insecure housing, inadequate services, and threats of eviction, often relying on ethnic identity-based claims to negotiate with political actors rather than formal institutional channels.

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Devasmita Jha

PhD Awarded in 2026

Algorithmic Management, Negotiating Precarity in the Absence of Regulation: Case Study of India's Ride Hailing Industry

VISITING FACULTY

MUKESH PATEL SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING, NMIMS

Ride-hailing platforms such as Uber and Ola increasingly rely on algorithms to manage and monitor their drivers, raising concerns about worker autonomy and accountability. Devasmita's research examines how algorithmic management shapes the everyday working conditions of ride-hailing drivers in India. It explores how automated monitoring and decision-making systems affect workers who have limited opportunities to challenge platform decisions. The study also highlights how poor infrastructure, limited digital literacy, and few alternative livelihood options deepen drivers' dependence on these platforms. The research underscores the need for stronger policy frameworks to protect gig workers from the vulnerabilities of technology-driven employment.

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Kaniska Singh

PhD Awarded in 2026

Governing Disasters And Disaster-Affected: Examining Vulnerability Production in the Kosi Riverplain in Bihar, India

VISITING FACULTY

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, MUMBAI

Flood governance in Bihar's Kosi River Basin shapes not only disaster response but also the vulnerability of communities living with recurring floods. Kaniska's research examines how state policies and bureaucratic practices define floods, victims, and vulnerable populations. Drawing on policy analysis and ethnographic fieldwork in embanked and unprotected villages, the thesis finds that flood management sustains unequal patterns of protection while normalising recurrent losses for some communities. It introduces the concepts of resilience fatigue and Janus-faced state responsibility to explain how welfare, development, and flood control can limit residents' claims to protection and justice, making disaster governance a struggle over recognition and citizenship.

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Kavery Ganguly

PhD Awarded in 2026

Conditions, Agency, and Interactions: Explaining Farmer-Market Dynamics through the Framework of Farmer-Market Linkages

LEAD ADVISOR (SCM)

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

Despite several policy efforts to improve agricultural market access, small and marginal farmers in India continue to face challenges in selling their produce. Kavery's research examines how vegetable farmers in selected areas of Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi engage with agricultural markets and navigate barriers related to production, marketing, and pricing. Drawing on qualitative fieldwork conducted between 2020 and 2022, the study explores farmers' strategies and the role of Farmer Producer Companies and policy interventions. The findings show that market outcomes depend not only on prices but also on whether transactions are completed, payments are timely, and market participation is reliable and predictable.

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Nikita Pandey

PhD Awarded in 2026

Understanding the Influence of Institutions and Ideas on the Health Policy in India: A Policy Cycle Study of AB-PMJAY

PROJECT MANAGER

JOHNS HOPKINS PRIVATE INDIA LIMITED

India's reliance on out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure has made publicly funded health insurance an important part of its health financing strategy. Nikita's research examines the evolution of Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), focusing on how global ideas, national institutions, and state-level practices have shaped the policy. Using policy document analysis, elite interviews, and a case study of implementation in Maharashtra, the study explores how the scheme evolved from agenda setting to implementation. The findings show that PMJAY reflects global policy narratives, domestic political negotiations, and frontline discretion, highlighting both the potential and limitations of insurance-based approaches to universal health coverage in India.

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Prerna Yadav

PhD Awarded in 2026

Challenges to Groundwater Governance in India: Insights from Punjab

TA-ANALYST

INDIAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

India's groundwater crisis reflects decades of policy choices that have prioritised agricultural productivity over long-term resource sustainability. Prerna's research examines the evolution of irrigation policy and groundwater governance through a policy process sequencing framework. Rather than treating groundwater depletion as the result of isolated policy failures, the study traces how successive decisions, institutional legacies, and changing policy priorities have shaped current challenges. It identifies key policy sequences and opportunities for reform to explain why some interventions have succeeded while others have fallen short. The research offers insights for developing more coherent, adaptive, and sustainable approaches to groundwater governance in India.

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Sarath K. T.

PhD Awarded in 2026

Transport Equity in Mumbai: A Multidimensional and Multi-level Assessment

SENIOR PROJECT ASSOCIATE

WRI INDIA

Transport inequity in Mumbai reflects gaps in accessibility, affordability, and inclusion, particularly for vulnerable communities. Sarath's research develops and applies a multidimensional framework to assess equity in the city's transport systems and policies. Combining spatial analysis, household surveys, policy and budget analysis, and stakeholder interviews, the study finds that 64% of slum residents live in transit deserts, while time costs account for 82% of the overall travel burden. It also highlights declining bus services, fragmented institutions, and investment favouring private-vehicle infrastructure. The research proposes stronger bus systems, equitable fares, mandatory equity assessments, and greater community participation in transport planning.

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Satish Kumar

PhD Awarded in 2026

Agriculture Nutrition Pathways in Semi-arid India: A Study of Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra

PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST

M S SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Agricultural improvements do not always translate into better nutrition for rural households. Satish's research examines the links between agriculture and nutrition in semi-arid India, drawing on fieldwork with 442 farm households in Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra. The study explores how agricultural diversification, seed adoption, irrigation, market access, and livelihood conditions shape household dietary diversity, comparing lowland and upland farming systems. The findings highlight the importance of market access, women's decision-making, farming-system diversity, and institutional support in improving dietary outcomes. The research aims to inform nutrition-sensitive, climate-resilient, and context-specific agricultural policies in India.

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Shashank Yadav

PhD Awarded in 2026

Situating Influence in Cyber Threat Intelligence Data Standardisation: The Case of Social Botnets & AI Disinformation

Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) standards are increasingly incorporating risks associated with AI-driven disinformation and social engineering into security automation systems. Shashank's research examines how these global protocols evolve and how state-society relations and interactions among stakeholders shape their development. The thesis highlights the transnational nature of these digital policy frameworks and explores how security standards respond to emerging technological threats across national boundaries.

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Sneha Somshekhar Swami

PhD Awarded in 2026

Beyond the Blame Game: Street-Level Bureaucracy and Delivery of Last-mile Electricity Services

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
PURVAM RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Electricity distribution in India faces persistent challenges in service quality, billing, and public trust. Sneha's research examines last-mile electricity service delivery in Maharashtra, focusing on the roles of wiremen and Assistant Engineers in public utilities. Drawing on five months of fieldwork across different districts, including observations and in-depth interviews, the study uses the theory of street-level bureaucracy to understand how frontline workers and their managers shape service delivery. The research explores the everyday challenges these employees face and how their actions influence consumers' experiences of electricity services, offering insights into the relationship between frontline practices, utility performance, and public trust.

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Tejendra Pratap Gautam

PhD Awarded in 2026

Implementation Process of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 – What works?: A case in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra

Recognising the forest rights of Indigenous communities remains a complex process shaped by policy, institutions, and competing interests. Tejendra's research examines the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra, focusing on the roles of government institutions, policy frameworks, and advocacy coalitions. Drawing on qualitative and ethnographic fieldwork, the study explores forest governance and negotiations among stakeholders across village, block, and district levels, including the management of forest resources such as tendu leaves. The research highlights the everyday struggles of Indigenous communities to secure their rights and contributes to debates on forest and environmental governance.

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Trupti Patil

PhD Awarded in 2026

Beyond the One-Size-Fits-All Model: Re-defining Drivers of Cardiovascular Diseases in Women in India

CONSULTANT
SAMBODHI RESEARCH & COMMUNICATIONS

Hypertension and related disabilities affect men and women differently, yet health policies often overlook the social factors shaping these differences. Trupti's research examines the links between hypertension, multiple health conditions, and functional disability in India, using national datasets and qualitative policy analysis. The findings show that although men have higher overall hypertension prevalence, women face additional risks arising from social, environmental, and metabolic factors. The study also finds that existing policies recognise biological sex differences but pay insufficient attention to gendered social conditions. The research highlights the need for gender-responsive, multi-sectoral health interventions.

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Alumni
MS
by Research



Ramraj Bharati

MS Awarded in 2023

Performance Assessment of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for Indian States

Financial inclusion remains a key policy goal in India, where access to formal financial services varies across regions. Ramraj's research examines the performance of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), a government initiative aimed at expanding access to banking services. Using secondary data, the study assesses account penetration, usage patterns, financial inclusion outcomes, and regional disparities across Indian states. It explores the factors influencing the scheme's performance and identifies areas for improvement. The research aims to inform evidence-based policymaking and strengthen efforts to make formal financial services more accessible and inclusive across India.

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Areesha Khan

MS Awarded in 2024

Platform Economy and the Fracturing/Reconfiguration of the Legal Infrastructure: Case of India

RESEARCH CONSULTANT
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES TRUST

Platform-based work is reshaping employment relationships and raising questions about the legal protections available to gig workers in India. Areesha's research examines how the platform economy is transforming the country's legal infrastructure, focusing on social security, occupational health and safety, and industrial relations. Drawing on legal analysis, fieldwork, interviews, and documentation of worker organising, the thesis explores state policy responses, court decisions, and efforts to unionise platform workers. The research finds that current interventions focus heavily on social security while overlooking workplace hazards and collective labour relations. It argues that meaningful protection requires a broader restructuring of legal frameworks and stronger recognition of gig workers' rights.

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Pratiksha Sonkar

MS Awarded in 2024

Exploring the Role of Higher Educational Institutes in Instilling a Sense of Belongingness: Campus Experience of Marginalized Students

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
GOVERNMENT COLLEGE BHANPURI

As access to higher education expands among disadvantaged groups in India, student retention and the quality of campus experiences have become important policy concerns. Pratiksha's research examines how higher education institutions shape a sense of belonging among students from marginalised communities and how this influences their campus experiences. The study explores the role of institutional support and campus climate in addressing challenges such as isolation, poor academic performance, and student attrition. It highlights the importance of creating inclusive learning environments where students feel supported and connected, contributing to broader discussions on equity, student well-being, and retention in higher education.

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Sanghamitra Sarma

MS Awarded in 2024

An Analysis of the Significance of Social Infrastructure in Cities for Older Adults

LEAD ANALYST
CAREEDGE GROUP

As India's population ages and urbanisation continues, the social environments that shape older adults' well-being are becoming increasingly important. Sanghamitra's research examines how social infrastructure, including public spaces and community organisations, creates opportunities for older adults to participate in urban life, with a focus on Mumbai. Moving beyond a primarily medical approach to ageing, the study explores how the built environment and community networks influence social engagement and well-being. It also reviews policies affecting social infrastructure for older persons in Mumbai, highlighting the need for urban policies that support social participation alongside access to healthcare.

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Anurup Khillare

MS Awarded in 2025

Policy and Cinema: Evolution of India's Cinematograph Act (1918–2023)

Film censorship in India has evolved alongside changes in political regimes, cultural norms, and technology. Anurup's research traces the development of the Cinematograph Act from the colonial period to the digital era, examining how successive governments have regulated cinema and negotiated the boundaries of artistic freedom. Drawing on archival records, legal texts, and government documents, the study explores the role of institutions such as the Central Board of Film Certification, alongside key developments including the Emergency, landmark court cases, and legislative reforms between 2010 and 2023. The thesis argues that film censorship serves not only as a legal mechanism but also as an instrument of political governance.

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Snehlata Topno

MS Awarded in 2025

Education, Gender Norms and Marital Stability: Rethinking Hypogamy in India's Context

As women's educational attainment rises in India, marriages in which wives are more educated than their husbands are becoming increasingly relevant to debates on gender equality. Snehlata's research examines how educational hypogamy affects marital dissolution among Indian women and whether marital breakdown reflects greater agency or the persistence of traditional gender norms. Using data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019–21), the study finds that educational hypogamy nearly doubles the odds of divorce compared with other marriages. The findings suggest that unchanged gender norms and status differences between spouses contribute to marital instability, highlighting the need for broader social and structural changes alongside educational expansion.

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Alumni Voices

Few people get to see an academic centre from as many vantage points as I have seen CPS as a part of the first-ever batch. Everything felt new and experimental, along with a sense of possibility in those early days as we were discovering the programme even as it was discovering itself. As CPS stands tall as ADCPS today, I am reminded that its growth has been a collective effort, with many people contributing to and shaping the Centre along the way. I realise that being part of the first batch also meant growing alongside the Centre and becoming part of its story. Seeing today's students occupy spaces that did not exist when we started is both surreal and profoundly rewarding. ADCPS will always remain a space of pride that I return to – as a student, a researcher, and someone invested in its future.



APARNA RAJ C.

The IIT Bombay campus is one of the most beautiful places for researchers. I am thankful to IITB for all the facilities, especially the library and ADCPS RS lab. ADCPS first floor RS Lab is a sacred place for me. It has given me the positive energy and strength to move on. I will cherish the gossip, laughs, tea, coffee, and work time in the RS lab.

DEVASMITA JHA



The PhD program at ADCPS provided me with the intellectual freedom and training to pursue research on water supply issues of the city of Mumbai. It enhanced my ability to engage critically with complex water issues, conduct independent inquiry, and communicate findings to both academic and public audiences. The experience continues to shape my professional journey.



SACHIN TIWALE

Coming back to academics mid-career at IIT Bombay has been a very special experience. After years of professional work and having studied Economics in my Masters, moving into Public Policy introduced me to a much broader, interdisciplinary way of looking at issues. Returning to a classroom and being challenged to question, read, analyse and write with rigour was both difficult and rewarding. What made the experience particularly meaningful was the diversity of people and perspectives I encountered. Being around students and researchers from very different backgrounds reminded me how much there is still to learn. The journey was demanding, especially while balancing work and family, but it also brought back the joy of learning. More than the PhD itself, IIT Bombay gave me the space to pause, think deeply and look at many of the questions from my professional life in a different way.



KAVERY GANGULY

As I belong to the first batch of PhD intake at CPS in 2017, I have witnessed the department grow from 15 people to almost 100 in 2024. CPS (IITB) provided me with the right environment to develop myself as a researcher and pursue a career of my interest. The faculty, office staff, and colleagues were instrumental in my PhD journey and beyond. I am forever grateful for the opportunity and support received at IITB.

MANAV KHAIRE



My time was transformative both academically and personally. The department encouraged me to think critically, engage with diverse perspectives, and develop a strong foundation in media and communication. The mentorship of the faculty, combined with opportunities for research, industry exposure, and creative exploration, played a significant role in shaping my career journey. The values of curiosity, rigor, and social responsibility that I imbibed here continue to guide my work as an academic and researcher. I will always be grateful to the department for providing an environment that challenged me to grow and prepared me for the opportunities that followed.

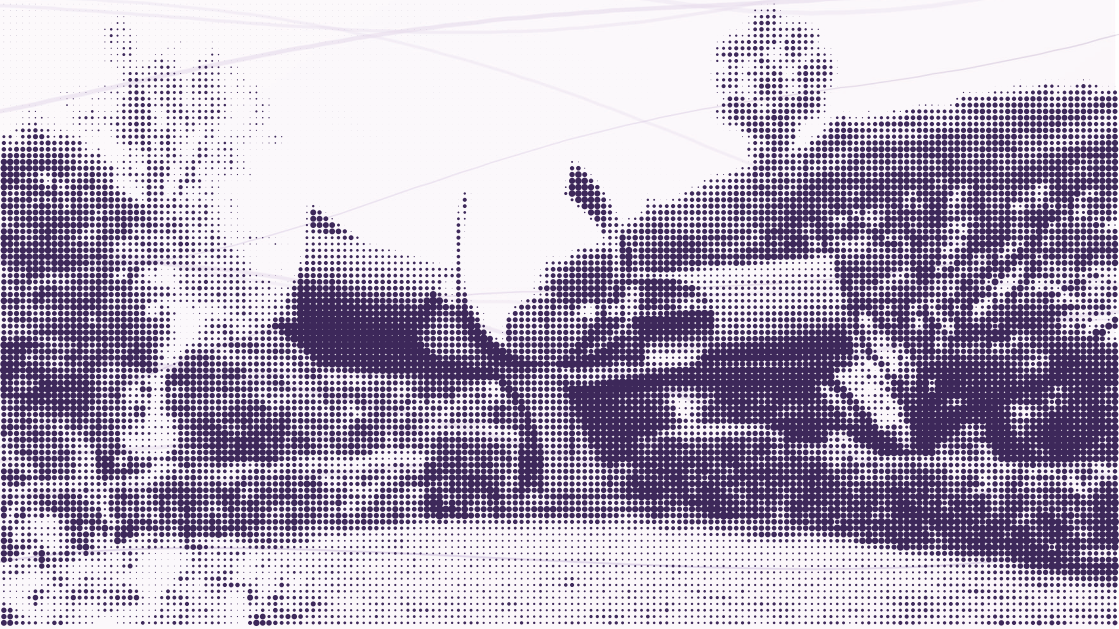


YASHAS P.R.

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